



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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GALLERY NEWS

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April 1943TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS:

Paintings by Emilio Pettoruti: The Central Loan Gallery will feature, for the month of April, an exhibition of paintings by one of South America's outstanding artists, Emilio Pettoruti. A native of Argentina, Mr. Pettoruti is not only a leader in the modern movement among the artists themselves, but is also director of the Museo de la Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, a museum which in many ways may be compared to the Whitney Gallery in New York.

Artistically, Pettoruti belongs to the Abstract-ionist group, stemming from the Cubist develop-ments of Bracque, Juan Gris and Picasso. Like them, his chief interest is in the manipulation of planes of colour to achieve plastic effect and rhythmic pattern. His canvases are not com-pletely non-representational, but abstractions of still-life objects, masked and costumed musi-cians and portrait heads. He is an excellent colourist, using brilliant blues, greens and rich brown in a very personal manner.

Mr. Pettoruti spent the years from 1917 to 1924 painting in Italy and since that time has led an uphill fight to free the art of his country from its traditional academicism. He is now touring the United States, making a study of American museum methods, and was a visitor to the Nelson Gallery during November of last year. The exhib-ition comes to the Gallery at a most opportune time, as April 14th has been designated as PAN AMERICAN DAY and the local chapter of the Pan American Council is planning a series of public programs to take place during the first two weeks of this month. The Gallery is happy to be able to take part in this program by presenting the work of one of the most prominent artists of the Republic of Argentina.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS - LOAN EXHIBITIONS: One of the most important functions of a modern museum

of art is keeping before its public a changing panorama of the art world, whether it be through exhibitions of contemporary art or by reviewing the accomplishments of the past. To this end a program of temporary loan exhibitions was inaugurated with the opening of the Gallery when a large collection of American paintings was assembled, having as its highlight, at least from the standpoint of popularity, the famous "Portrait of the Artist's Mother" by Whistler, lent by the Louvre. In the almost ten years since that opening, the three central loan galleries have presented a new exhibition on the average of once a month, covering an amazing range of subjects and including outstanding loans from important private and public collections. In order for a Kansas Citian to see again those things which have been offered to him for no more effort than a trip to the Gallery, it would be necessary to travel the country from end to end, to visit dozens of museums, obtain admittance to private collections ordinarily closed to the public, seek out the studios of innumerable artists, trudge New York's 57th Street from east to west and make a trip to Europe. It seems, therefore, not without profit to review briefly the more important of these exhibitions.

Due to the restrictions on the permanent collection, special emphasis has been placed on exhibitions of work by living artists. In the American field, shows from regional organizations - Iowa, Colorado, the Cleveland painters, the Southern States Art League, the Rio Grande group, Sante Fe, Taos, Buffalo, California, etc. have been supplemented by traveling exhibitions such as the Chicago Annual, paintings by Negro artists, stage designers, abstractionists and the various photographic societies. One-man shows have presented comprehensive views of the work of such outstanding painters as Walt Kuhn, Peter Hurd, Reginald Marsh, John Koch, Maurice Sterne, Paul Clement, Alexander Brook, Leon Kroll, Ernest Fiene, Walt Disney and many others.

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Contemporary artists from outside the United States have not been neglected. The art of Mexico, Poland, Soviet Russia, France and Germany was seen in group showings, with feature exhibitions for Schmidt-Rottluff, Beckman, Masereel, Grosz, Portinari, Picasso, Chagall and Berman. Two of the most interesting shows in this category were the "Masters of Popular Painting" and "Modern Painters as Illustrators", circulated by the Museum of Modern Art.

In honor of the anniversary, the December exhibition of each year has been one of more than ordinary importance. Four of them particularly may be recalled with great pleasure - the French impressionist exhibition of 1936, the charming Venetian paintings of 1937, the courtly art of the 17th century France shown in 1939 and the forthright painting of the Dutch, Flemish and Germans in December of 1940. Other major exhibitions in the European field deserving of mention are the Sporting Paintings of 1936, the Van Gogh exhibition which traveled the country in that same year and the 19th century French painters shown in 1935.

The Oriental Department has contributed several major exhibitions, notable being the Chinese collection of Mr. C. T. Loo shown in the fall of 1934, the colourful Chinese Textile exhibition for the 1935 anniversary with its special installations of moon window and pavillion; the Persian Miniature show; the objects from the permanent collection which went to the London exhibition; the comprehensive group of tomb figures; and many others arranged to show the Gallery collection in its various phases.

Space is too limited to mention the many other fields, decorative arts, prints etc., all representing hundreds of objects received, unpacked, installed, hours of research for publicity and labels and much thought and planning. There is still much yet to explore and some of it may of necessity wait until transportation facilities may be more freely used. At present two-thirds of the loan space is housing the fine paintings

which we are privileged to shelter and exhibitions for the duration will be smaller, but it is hoped, just as interesting as in the past.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES: The April lectures will be concerned with the 20th Century French painters, most of them still living, whose works and theories have been in the vanguard of contemporary trends.

April 7 - Picasso, Bracque and Cubism. These two men led the movement which believes that architecture is the mother of all arts and that "one should see in nature the cylinder, the sphere, the cone."

April 14 - Rousseau and the Primitivists. The so-called "Sunday Painters" who brought to their painting few high sounding theories and almost no instruction, but through freshness of viewpoint and clearness of vision created charming and convincing compositions.

April 21 - Forain, Derain and Rouault. Forain carried on the tradition of Daumier in his social commentaries in paint and pencil; Derain is a conservative among 20th Century Frenchmen, at his best in depicting the landscape of Southern France; and Rouault carries the jewel-like colours and black outlines of stained glass into his powerful portraits and religious subjects.

April 27 - The Minor School of Paris. The lesser men who made no spectacular success but whose competent and often inspired painting makes up the basic soundness of French painting.

THE MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: To commemorate the season of Lent and Eastertide, the Masterpiece Room will display during April a recently acquired Spanish Silver Crucifix. This is the first time the Crucifix has been shown, and it should be of great interest, not only because of the religious significance at this time, but also because of its intrinsic value as a fine example of Spanish metalwork. It came to us, thru the Hearst Collection, from the Cathedral of

Saragossa and thus gives us a definite idea of the magnificent way in which the Gothic cathedrals of Spain were decorated, with their strong emotional feeling for opulence and intricate patterns. The crucifix is over fifty inches high. The hexagonal stem, embellished with repousse motifs with inscriptions in Old Latin, terminates in a larger hexagonal section, simulating the exterior of a Gothic cathedral. This supports the cross proper. The cross is decorated on both sides with figures from the Old and New Testaments and designs and medallions of iconographic significance.

FRIDAY EVENING OPENINGS: Except for Good Friday evening, the Gallery will observe the usual hours during the month of April. For the schedule of Gallery talks and musical programs, see the calendar on page eight.

FRIENDS OF ART: The regular meeting of the Friends of Art Study Group, at eleven o'clock on Thursday, April 15, will be held in Gallery 15 and will deal with the traditions of French painting leading up to the modern schools. Several members of the group will contribute short background talks on French life and Miss Jackson will speak about the later French paintings now on loan at the Gallery.

GALLERY NOTES:

Gallery 26: Chinese robes from the court, theater and temple will be displayed in Gallery 26 during April. These costumes are lent to the Gallery by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beck of New York and Miss Fanny Pomeroy Brown of Berea, Kentucky. Included in the exhibition will be two miniature robes, one belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Beck and the other from the permanent collection. These tiny costumes, no more than six or eight inches in length, are woven and embroidered with the same attention to detail that characterizes the careful designs in the robes of regular size.

The Ceramics Room: To the average layman, "Wedgwood" has become synonymous with the soft-blue ornamental vessels, decorated with relief figures

in white, known in pottery parlance as "Jasper Ware". For the months of April and May, this type of ware will occupy the greater portion of the Ceramics Room. The Burnap collection contains not only a great variety of pieces in the well-known blue, but also the rarer violets, buffs and greens. In addition there will be a fine group of Wedgwood marbled vases, of classic inspiration, and several other late 18th and early 19th century wares.

MUSIC NOTES: Readers of the Gallery News have undoubtedly been aware of the fact that a number of changes have occurred in the scheduled programs for Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. We regret that many of these cancellations have been due to war time demands and have had to be made after the printing of the bulletin, sometimes so late that it has been impossible to notify the newspaper. We are attempting to fill in these unavoidable cancellations with programs by other groups or motion pictures and on every scheduled Friday evening and Sunday afternoon there will be activities of interest in Atkins Auditorium.

On Easter Sunday we are showing the film, "The Life of Rembrandt" featuring Charles Laughton. This film is of interest to children as well as adults and especially to Gallery patrons who are familiar with the fine canvas by Rembrandt in the permanent collection.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: There will be three Saturday programs of interest to children in Atkins Auditorium during April. The first will be a marionette play on April 10th, at 2:30 P.M., produced by the Children's Theatre group of the Kansas City Junior League. The play, "Bahrum Gur", was inspired by the exciting story of a Persian King depicted on a bowl in the Gallery's Near Eastern Collection. It is directed by Mrs. John Franklin.

Culminating their winter's work, the boys and girls of the marionette class will produce an American Indian play, "The Spider Woman" on

April 17th at 10:30 A.M. It is the Navajo legend of the origin of the art of weaving. The pupils have constructed and costumed their marionettes and produced the play under the direction of Miss Susan Huncilman and Miss Geraldine Carrigan. The public is cordially invited. In the afternoon, at 2:30 P.M., the Junior Department of the Conservatory of Music will present a program for children, directed by Miss Josephine Borserine. This brings to a close the winter Saturday morning classes and afternoon programs for children at the Gallery. The Game Tray will continue throughout the remainder of April on Saturdays from ten until four.

Enrollment for summer classes will take place during the second week in June. Further information concerning classes offered and date of registration will be found in the May Gallery News.

LITTLE MUSEUM FOR YOUNG MODERNS: During the month of April, an exhibition of crafts from different community centers throughout Kansas City will be shown in the Little Museum. This should be of interest to the general public as well as children.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Fri., 2 - 7:45 - Loan Gallery - Talk, Emilio
Pettoruti, Miss Jackson
" 2 - 8:15 - Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
Sun., 4 - 3:30 - Concert - Mu Phi Epsilon
Tues., 6 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed., 7 - 8:00 - Lecture - Picasso, Braeque &
Cubism, Miss Jackson
Fri., 9 - 7:45 - Talk, Gallery 25 - Chinese
Bronzes, Miss Hughes
" 9 - 8:15 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Blim
Sat., 10 - 2:30 - Marionette Play - Bahrum Gur
Sun., 11 - 3:30 - Concert - K.C. Conservatory
Tues., 13 - 10:00 - Lounge - Aspasia Delphians
" 13 - 10:00 - Library - Book Club
" 13 - 1:00 - Library - Art Study Club
Wed., 14 - 10:00 - Library - Zeneta Delphians
" 14 - 8:00 - Lecture - Rousseau and the
Primitivists, Miss Jackson
Fri., 16 - 7:45 - Gallery 14 - Talk, Spanish
Silver Crucifix, Miss Kem
" 16 - 8:15 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Paul
Willson and Della Willson
Sat., 17 - 10:30 - Marionette Play - Spider Woman
" 17 - 2:30 - Program - K.C. Conservatory
Sun., 18 - 4:00 - Concert - Hunt-Forsythe Studio
Tues., 20 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed., 21 - 8:00 - Lecture - Forain, Derain and
Rouault, Miss Jackson
Thurs. 22 - 11:00 - Gallery 16 - Friends of Art
Fri., 23 - NO FRIDAY EVENING OPENING
Sun., 25 - 3:30 - Motion Picture - "The Life
of Rembrandt"
Tues., 27 - 10:00 - Lounge - Aspasia Delphians
Wed., 28 - 10:00 - Library - Zeneta Delphians
" 28 - 8:00 - Lecture - The Minor School
of Paris, Miss Jackson
Fri., 30 - 7:45 - Ceramics Room - Talk, Wedg-
wood Jasper Ware, Miss Jackson
" 30 - 8:15 - Concert - K.C. Conservatory

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

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